



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Cooperative State
Research, Education
And Extension Service

Washington, DC
20250

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Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems

The Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (the Initiative) was authorized by PL 105-185 (112 Statute 564)--the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998. The Initiative was authorized at a funding level of \$120 million per year for Fiscal Years 1998 through 2002.

Purpose: To provide effective, science-based solutions to critical emerging issues in priority mission areas established in the law. These are (1) agricultural genomics and biotechnology; (2) food safety, food technology and human nutrition; (3) new and alternative uses for agricultural products; (4) natural resource management; (5) farm efficiency and profitability.

The Initiative complements other research, extension, or education programs, but differs in that it gives priority to projects which: (1) integrate research, extension, and education so that practical solutions can not only be tested but also implemented and (2) involve multiple states, institutions and disciplines, so that complex problems can be addressed holistically to reach practical solutions. In pertinent program areas, priority may be given to projects that address the concerns of small- to mid-sized producers and land managers, who may be most affected by new agricultural technologies and their associated consequences.

Approach: Of the \$120 million authorized, about \$113 million is available for grants through the Initiative in 2000. Via a Request for Proposals (RFP) published in the Federal Register on March 6, 2000 (also available for download at <http://www.reeusda.gov/ifafs>) the Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) solicited projects for competitive review in the following program areas.

Program Areas:

Agricultural Genome--Addresses plant genomics, animal genomics, microbial genomics, and bioinformatics. These areas call for the development of genetic information and resources for (a) plants of agricultural importance that have not been well-studied, as well as a focus on the functional genomics of rice; (b) animals of agricultural importance, including the mapping and identification of genes affecting traits of economic importance and understanding the effects of the environment on such genes and their associated traits, (c) agriculturally important microbe species, which, despite their numbers, are the least understood organisms, and; (d) bioinformatics, (the organization and analysis of genetic data), which will make such data more accessible to

current and future producers, researchers, and extension and education specialists.

Agricultural Biotechnology--Addresses the health effects of biotechnology on humans, animals and plants; also solicits proposals that address the social risks and benefits of biotechnology as well as the effects of social perceptions of biotechnology on its development and use.

Food Safety, Food Technology and Human Nutrition--Addresses (a) factors affecting food and nutrition behavior of consumers, (b) nutritional impacts of functional (fresh or processed foods containing significant levels of biologically active components that might provide health benefits or desirable physiological effects beyond basic nutrition), and (c) reduction of microbial hazards on raw agricultural commodities.

New Uses for Agricultural Products--Addresses the need to enhance the competitive value, find new uses for, or establish entirely new non-food agricultural and forestry products. These are primarily biomass fuel sources and biobased industrial products that can replace petroleum-based fuels and products. This Program Area supports Executive Order 13134, Promoting Biobased Products and Bioenergy, and Executive Order 13101, Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention.

Natural Resources Management--Addresses methods of maintaining environmental integrity, quality of life, and economic viability. The focus is on (a) alternative natural resource management for private lands with emphasis on the development and understanding of integrated natural resources management systems; (b) invasive species, which supports Executive Order 13112, recognizing that the spread of invasive plants, insects and other animals, and microbes may be one of the most important threats to our natural resource base; (c) animal manure management, which is a response to public pressure on the degradation of air, soil, and water resources caused by animal manure; and (d) precision technologies, which will enhance U.S. capacity to integrate site-specific and whole system efficiency and profitability while minimizing impacts on natural resources.

Farm Efficiency and Profitability--Addresses the concerns of families operating small and medium-sized farms, including (a) development of management and marketing systems that improve efficiency and profitability, (b) development of improved methods of managing production, marketing, and financial risks faced by farmers and ranchers, and (c) development of farm-based value-added processing and new high-return production and marketing niches.

Program Descriptions, Eligibility, and Program Reviews

Proposals are due to CSREES by May 8, 2000. Several Points:

- C Program descriptions in each priority area are based on legislative mandate, public comment, staff input, and advice from the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. (See Page 4 for a list of programs and contacts.)
- C All Federal research agencies, national laboratories, colleges, universities, research foundations, and private research organizations may submit proposals for grants. Funds are also available to support competitive

projects from small- and mid-sized institutions not previously successful in attaining funds competitively from CSREES.

- C Commodity specific projects require at least a 1:1 match from non-Federal sources unless the project is justified as nationally important. Indirect costs are limited to 19% of the total Federal funds provided under each award.
- C Consortia Projects (\$1-5M) and Standard Projects (\$1M or less) will be funded, though very few projects will be funded at the high end.

The merits of all proposals received for each program area or sub-area will be reviewed by a panel drawn from scientists, extension and education specialists, and others (producers, range or forest managers/operators, consumers, etc.); from an array of organizations, disciplines, and places; and balanced with regard to race, gender, and age.

IFAFS Programs and Program Directors

<u>Program</u>	<u>Program Director</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
10.0 Agricultural Genomics		
10.1 Plant Genome	Liang-Shiou Lin	401-5042; llin@reeusda.gov
10.2 Animal Genome	Peter Brayton	401-5044; pbrayton@reeusda.gov
10.3 Microbe Genome	Ann Lichens-Park	401-6466; apark@reeusda.gov
10.4 Bioinformatics	Gail Mclean	401-6060; gmclean@reeusda.gov
11.0 Agricultural Biotechnology		
11.1 Agricultural Biotechnology: Effect on human, animal and plant health	Dan Jones Debby Sheely	401-6854; ddjones@reeusda.gov 401-1924; dsheely@reeusda.gov
11.2 Agricultural Biotechnology: Social and Economic Aspects	Dan Jones Debby Sheely	401-6854; ddjones@reeusda.gov 401-1924; dsheely@reeusda.gov
12.0 Food Safety, Food Technology, and Human Nutrition		
12.1 Factors Affecting Food and Nutrition Behavior of Consumers	Etta Saltos	401-5178; esaltos@reeusda.gov
12.2 Nutritional Impact of Functional Foods	Ram Rao Melvin Mathias	401-6010; rrao@reeusda.gov 401-4124; mmathias@reeusda.gov
12.3 Reduction of Microbial Hazards on Raw Agricultural Commodities	Robin Huettel	401-5804; rhuettel@reeusda.gov
13.0 New Uses for Agricultural Products		
13.0 New Uses for Agricultural Products	Carmela Bailey	401-6443; cbailey@reeusda.gov
14.0 Natural Resource Management		
14.1 Alternative Natural Resource Management Practices for Private Lands	Larry Biles	401-4926; lbiles@reeusda.gov
14.2 Invasive Species	John Obrycki	401-1108; jobrycki@reeusda.gov
14.3 Animal Manure Management	Richard Hegg	401-6550; rhegg@reeusda.gov
14.4 Application of Precision Technologies	Preston Jones Maurice Horton	401-1990; jpjones@reeusda.gov 401-4504; mhorton@reeusda.gov
15.0 Farm Efficiency and Profitability		
15.0 Farm Efficiency	Don West	401-720-5633; dwest@reeusda.gov

